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CELL/TISSUE CULTURING DEVICE AND METHOD

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Abstract not available for JP 2001502526 (T) Abstract of corresponding document: WO 9813469 (A1)

A disposable device and method for axenically culturing and harvesting cells and/or tissue in consecutive cycles. The device consists of a sterilisable transparent and/or translucent disposable container which may be at least partially filled with a suitable sterile biological cell and/or tissue culture medium and/or axenic inoculant and/or sterile air and/or required other sterile additives. The container has means for removing excess air and/or waste gases therefrom, and means for introducing the inoculant and/or culture medium and/or additives therein. The device is characterised by having a reusable harvesting means for enabling harvesting of at least a portion of the medium containing cells and/or tissue when desired, thereby enabling the device to be used continuously for at least one subsequent consecutive culturing/harvesting cycle. The portion of medium containing cells and/or tissue remaining from a previously harvested cycle may serve as inoculant for a next culture and harvest cycle, culture medium and/or additives being provided. The device may thus be used continuously in consecutive cycles, and may be disposed of when it becomes contaminated. In a second aspect of the invention, a battery of these devices, suitably interconnected, enables the scale of production of cells/tissues to be adjusted when required.
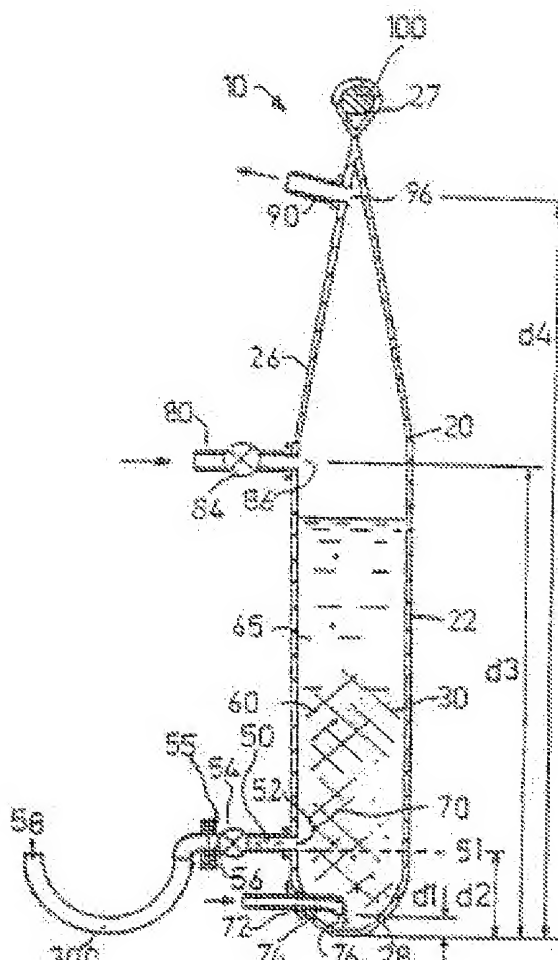
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